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The Courtroom Parade

Prisoner Freed, Trial Begins

Edward Melville Doyle Smith, former Victoria resident released last week from a Saskatchewan prison, was escorted back here to face theft charges in Saanich and Sidney.

In a special session of Saanich police court yesterday, Smith was remanded without plea after being charged with breaking into an unoccupied house four days before Christmas, 1957, and stealing goods worth $12,000.

Police said about $5,000 worth of the goods stolen had been recovered in searches of a number of homes in Greater Victoria.

Smith appeared in Sidney police court last Friday, and was remanded to next Monday on a similar charge involving theft of about $1,000 worth of goods from a Sidney home.

* * *

Guilty pleas in impaired driving charges led to fines for two drivers, in city police court and one in Sidney yesterday.

Robert Burns, 19, of 4005 Gordon Head, was fined $250 and his licence suspended for one year following a series of crashes Saturday about 11 p.m. in Victoria West.

Court was told Burns' car sideswiped two others, then forced a third into a ditch.

Police arriving at the scene said Burns told them: It's my fault. I'm 19 years old and I'm drunk."

Stuart Duncan Robertson, 1703 Fairfield, was also fined $250 and remanded regarding his driver's licence to Friday, when he admitted driving while impaired Saturday at about 8.20 p.m.

Police said Robertson's car collided with a car driven by Helmut Gretz, 3616 Doncaster, then drove away. Gretz finally caught him in the 1100 block Burdett.

Third impaired driver was David Lorne Thomson, West Saanich Road, Brentwood, fined $150 and costs in Sidney police court after a minor accident. His licence was suspended for six months.

* * *

John Robert Ewen, 1950 Melissa, was fined $50 in city court on conviction for common assault on Memorial Arena manager Joe Dukowski during a rock 'n' roll dance Friday.

* * *

Hugh Alexander Chisholm, 2690 Queenswood, had just driven away from a symphony concert and his head was still full of the music—that's why he didn't realize what he heard was the siren of a police car.

This he told court yesterday in pleading guilty to failing to heed that siren.

Chisholm said it was the first time he'd ever heard a siren; he'd lived abroad for 35 years. Court then heard a list of traffic convictions in Victoria, dating back to 1952.

Said Magistrate William Ostler: "I've heard many descriptions of the noise of a siren, but never before that it was like the sound of a symphony. You will be fined $35."

* * *

Suspended sentence under bond of $500 for one year was handed down to Wayne Budynski of Victoria, who admitted theft of under the value of $50 from the provincial government.

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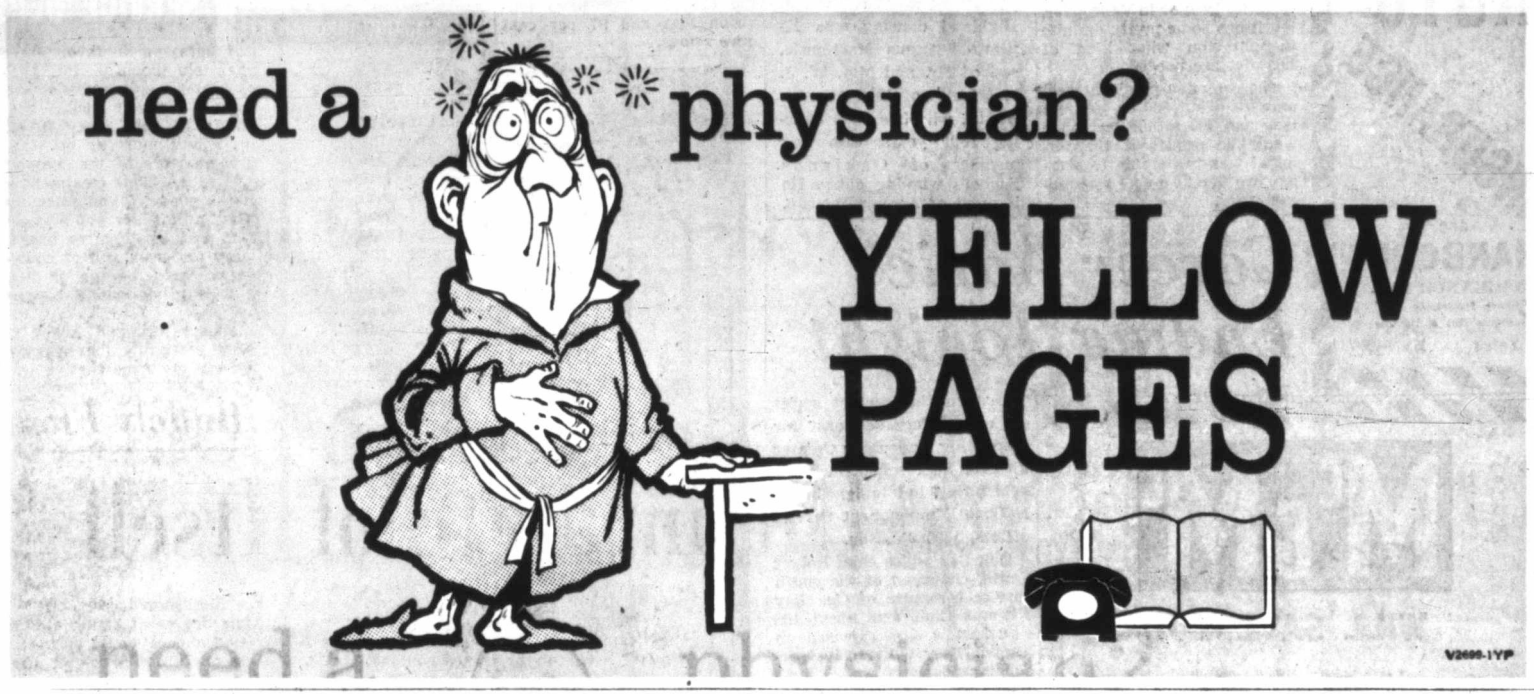

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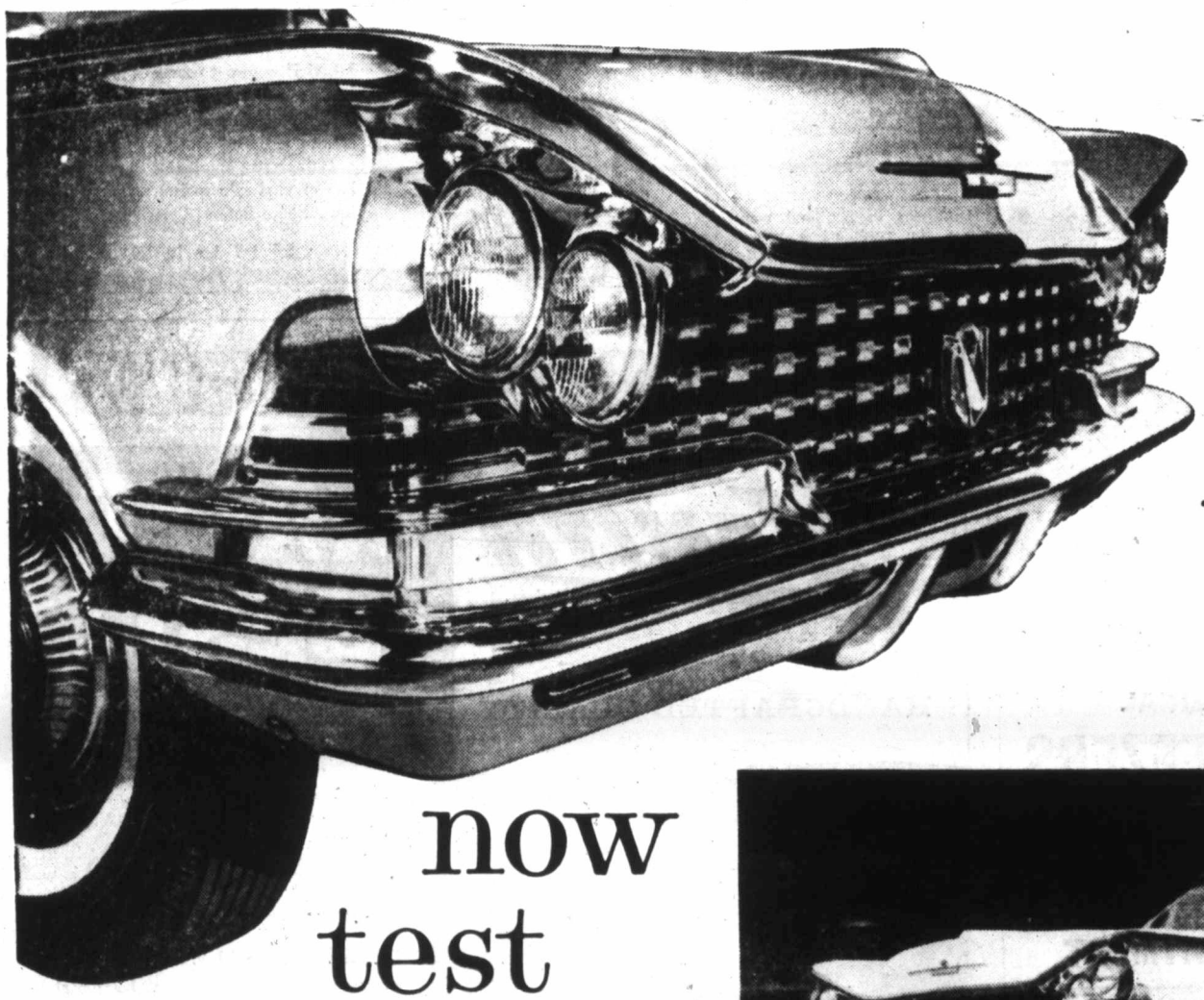

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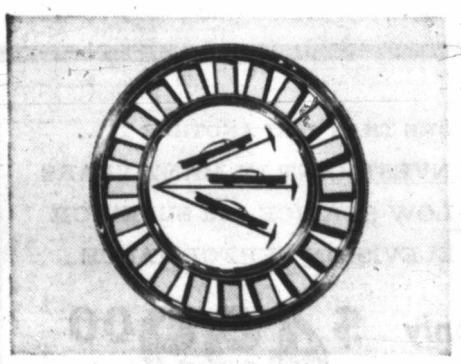

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